

As we have intimated, the work abounds in illustrations. Many of these, it is true, are not new, a fact which is frankly mentioned by the author, who states in his preface that the publishers gave him "*carte blanche* to select from the whole number of drawings contained in the various works published by them." If the illustrations consequently manifest their diversified origin, the want of uniformity thus resulting is more than compensated for by the increased practical value so many illustrations must give to the book.

As a guide to the dissector, whether he be the pupil in his first year's course, or the practitioner seeking to refresh his knowledge of anatomy, this volume will be found to be of much valuable assistance.

ART. XXVII.—*An Outline of Medical Chemistry for the use of Students.* By B. HOWARD RANN, M. D., Professor of Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Medicine. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1855.

An Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis. By JOHN E. BOWMAN, F. C. S., Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London, &c. Second American from the second and revised London edition. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1856.

A Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry. By JOHN E. BOWMAN, F. C. S., Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London, &c. Second American from the third and revised London edition, with illustrations. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1855.

THE increasing attention to chemistry and the constant contributions of new facts and improved modes of investigation in the inorganic and organic portions, together with the different views taken as to the best methods of communicating to others the principles and practices of the science, leads to the production of new, and the frequent revision of former editions of less recent publications. The above works, though differing in character and object, have been placed together as all relating to the same general subjects.

The first of these works is intended as an outline of general chemistry and its application to medicine. It has been the view of the author to give all the prominent facts of the science, as far as necessary to the student, in following a course of lectures on this subject. With this view the language is very succinct, and detail is avoided except where official preparations are noticed. Thus constructed the book becomes an aid to a course of lectures, or as a means of reviving knowledge previously attained, the rapid survey precluding any detail, which is left to the filling up of the outline, by a systematic course of instruction. In accomplishing this, two difficulties lie in the way: one, clearness being sacrificed to brevity, and the other, by omissions of words rendering the statements incorrect either in reality or appearance. The former has in a great measure been avoided, but in the latter the success has not been so great. Instances of this may be adduced in the preparation of German oil of vitriol, where, previously exposed for some time to air, is required, and of the latter, where speaking of muriatic acid gas, it is said "By pressure condensed into a liquid; specific gravity 1.27;" where, if the one sentence had been divided into two, the student would not have been left in doubt whether the weight applied to the liquid formed by condensation or the gas itself. A glossary is appended which will be very useful to the beginner, who frequently finds it difficult to remember words to which his ear is not accustomed, unless the precise meaning is taken in at the same time. These oversights are, however, but few, and can be easily corrected in the next edition, when also an index is required to facilitate reference when it is required to revive the knowledge on any particular point.

The latter two are new editions of works intended to convey instruction of a practical character; the instruments, their mode of construction, and the details of their use in these investigations, being described and illustrated so as to be

adapted to guide the student in the commencement of his career of study. We have heretofore expressed our opinion as favourable to the general end in view in the selection of apparatus of the most simple character, and the clear directions for their use, and it is now only necessary to allude to such improvements as may be presented in the editions now offered. The Introduction to Practical Chemistry is well arranged, and as full in its details as can generally be desired, and hence presents nothing of novelty in these respects. But investigations in organic products are constantly developing some new, or rendering more prominent some hitherto not sufficiently noticed facts, and more direct and simple methods of proceeding are devised, consequently the Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry should contain such recent additions to organic chemistry as are embraced in the scope of the work. Of these Maumené's test for sugar is given under morbid urine. This, at the same time that it is very delicate, is very easy to perform, and the reagent, though not usually to be met with in the shops, is readily prepared, and being liable to but little change, may be kept on hand for general use, is a desirable addition to the means already attainable for the same end. To the means of investigating the changes in the composition of urine, that proposed by Liebig to ascertain the amount of urea present in any portion of that fluid by means of the nitrate of mercury, with which it forms a nearly insoluble compound, is one of much practical value in the hands of the physician, after he has familiarized himself with the mode of procedure by a few preliminary trials. To facilitate its use, minute details are given of the method of preparing the different solutions used, the apparatus necessary, and the mode of procedure, and the precautions necessary for an accurate result. With these as the principal additions, the work has been brought up to the present state of the science, and continues to deserve the same favour that it has previously received.

ART. XXVIII.—*Sea-Sickness: its Cause, Nature, Symptoms, and Treatment, derived from Experience and Strict Observation*. By M^r. NELKEN, Doctor Medicinæ of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris, France, of the Faculty of Medicine in Wurzburg, Bavaria, and Resident Surgeon in the New York State Hospital, Ward's Island. 8vo. pp. 32. New York, 1856: Stringer & Townsend.

ALTHOUGH to those who "go down upon the sea in ships," the sickness produced by the motion of the vessel is a source always of great annoyance and generally of no trifling suffering, it has unfortunately attracted but little attention from the medical profession. Few have attempted a careful investigation of its true character and immediate cause. This has arisen, no doubt, from the fact that sea-sickness is a troublesome rather than a dangerous disease, and one most commonly of only temporary duration, and which ceases spontaneously upon the removal of its exciting cause.

It is true, we have been favoured with various speculations in explanation of the manner in which sea-sickness is produced. It has been referred to a sympathy between the brain and peripheral nerves, to an irritation of the optic nerves, caused by the apparent vacillatory motion of everything around the vessel, to a sanguine congestion of the brain, produced by the derangement of the centre of gravity during the pitching forward of the vessel, to a sanguine depletion of the brain resulting from a centrifugal force called into action within the bloodvessels, in consequence of the oscillatory motion of the ship, and to a miasmatic intoxication. Dr. Darwin referred the production of sea-sickness to a disturbance of the brain consequent upon the unusual impression produced upon the vision by the movements of the vessel, which opinion is adopted by Dr. E. Miller, of New York, to whom we are indebted for a very excellent monograph upon the subject; he extended the explanation so as to embrace the sense